required to execute a bond for Rs. 10 laks with the stipulation to serve Indian Airlines for a minimum period of 10 years in the first instance and for a further period of 10 years after every conversion/endorsement. It has also been decided to recruit and train pilots in sufficient numbers to take care of the exodus of pilots.

Misappropriation of Government funds in Hotel Janpath

18. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 26th July, 1992 that a massive racket misappropriating Government funds, running into lakhs of rupees has been unearthed in the India Tourism Development Corporation's Hotel Janpath and that some people have pocketed 20 percent of expenditure tax by making false entries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken to punish the guilty and whether the money involved has been recovered;

(d) what are the loopholes in the system which have been taken advantage of by those involved; and

(e) what precautions have been taken to ward off such happenings in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four employees of Hotel Janpath are alleged to have been involved in the transaction of misappropriation of cash of the said hotel.

(c) ITDC Management has suspended the above said employees and initiated departmental proceedings against them. The Management has handed over the case to the Crime Branch, Delhi Police for investigation. Appropriate action will be taken by ITDC on receipt of the Investigation report of the Crime Branch.

(d) Improper scrutiny of payments/recoveries on day to day basis received at Hotel Janpath and inadequate supervisory control have given advantage to those involved in the case.

(e) ITDC has strengthened the system of checking and is also introducing the computerised billing in the hotel in a phased manner.

Upgrading the standard of airports

19. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in India having the international standards of signals and landing instruments; what is the number of airports that are lacking such facilities;

(b) whether Government have any plans to upgrade the standard to fit in International standards; if so, what is the time bound programme for that purpose;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the airlines in India are not keeping up punctuality in time schedule of departures and arrivals; if so, what steps have been taken to rectify this defect; if not, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are also aware that the air ticket fare is exhorbitant in India as compared to other airways of the world; if so, what steps are contemplated to reduce the fares to attract tourists and other passengers to travel by Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The provision of modern communication and navigational aids is a continuing process. These instruments have been provided at all the airports depending on the type of aircrafts and locational factors.